A

Wife for a Husband,

AND A

Husband for a Wife,

OR,

A Popiſh Prieſt turn'd

MATCH-MAKER

BETWEEN

A *Knight* and a *Gentlewoman* of pretended great Fortune, but proved otherwiſe.

Alſo how one that went to a *Meeting-Houſe*, fell in Love with a *PAPIST*, and the ſtrange Converſion of them both to the Church of *England*.

Together with NEWS from

Preſter-John's Country.

LONDON,

Printed in the Year, 1679.

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In the first place hear what Sir *Geffrey Chaucer* sayes in his Prologue before his *Sumpners Tale*, written about 300 years agone.

Pardon ye have oft time heard tell,
How that a Frere ravished was to Hell;
In Spirite once was by a Vision,
And as an Angel led him up and doun
To shew him the pains that there were,
In all the place saw he not a Frere
Of other Folke he saWe inow in Wo
Unto the Angel spake the Frere tho
Now Sir quoth he, have Freres soche a Grace
That none of them shall come into this place:
Yes quoth this Angel many a Myllioun,
And unto Sathanas ladde he him doun,
And now hath Sathanas soche a Taile,
Broder than of a Carike is the Saile
Hold up thy taile thou Sathanas (quoth he)
Shewe forth thine Erse, let the Frere se
Where is the Nest of Freres in this place,
And er that half a Forlong Waie of Space
(Right as Bees swarmen out of an Hive)
Out of the Devilles Erse they gan to drive
Twentie thoulande Freres on a rout
And throughout Hell swarmed all about
And come in again as fast as they were gone
And into his Erse they crepten everie eak one.

A

Wife for a Husband,

AND A

HUSBAND For a WIFE.

SIR,

YOurs we Received, and Return you Thanks for your Excellent Discourse therein. I shall now by way of some Recompence for your Great Civilities, acquaint you with some Pleasant Stories, the which I do hereby assure you (upon my own Knowledge) to be very True.

About *April*, *Anno Dom.* 1679, There Lived and Died a certain Merchant in this Town, who had the Reputation to be very Rich, but died very Poor. His Wife being a very Ingenious Woman, and very amiable, having a Mind and Design to raise her Fortune, resolved to turn *Papist*, and so she did; and went frequently to Mass at *Somerset-House*, and often to Confession, and behaved her self very Devoutly, and was upon all occasions very charitable; and having a good Repute from the best of that Perswasion; One day she came to her Confessor, and thanked him for all his Spiritual Comforts, which she had received from him, but besought him to superad one more to his former Kindnesses; the which the Holy Man was willing to do; she then told him, how that she had purposed to Live and spend the Remainder of her Days in the Service of her Maker; but she had a great Estate left her by her late Husband, which did give much Distraction to her, and hindred her in her Journey towards Glory.

She therefore earnestly besought the Holy Father to help her to a good Companion, that might free her of that trouble.

The Holy Father said, that he would do his Endeavour to serve her, and asked her what her Estate might be; the Gentlewoman Replied, Forty Thousand Pounds in good Debts, and Twenty Thousand Pounds more in Debts Sperate, and some Desperate. The Priest told her it was a fair Estate, and desired her to come to his Chamber the next day by eight of the Clock in the Fore-noon, and he would give her some Account of his Endeavour.

She assured the Holy Man, that at that time she would attend him; but heartily desired the Party might be of good Estate and Quality; Otherwise she should draw upon her self a great Displeasure from her Friends, she having so good and considerable an Estate of her own. The Priest told her she would do so.

The Gentlewoman takes Leave, and presently the Priest sends for one Sir *John* ——— a Friend of his, a Widdower, Middle Aged, and a Childless Man, and a Knight worth Eighteen Hundred Pounds *per Annum*, but Indebted about Seven Thousand Pounds. The Knight coming to the Priest, the Priest told the Knight, Now Sir *John* I can do your business; I can help you to a Brave Excellent Wife, a Just, Pious and Devout Woman, and one that will be worth to you Threescore Thousand pounds; and desired him to come to his Chamber the next day about eight of the clock in the Fore-noon, and he should see her. The Knight returned his many Thanks and Service to the Priest, for his great Kindness to him, and so departed. The next day at the hour appointed, the Gentlewoman appeared to the Priest, who told her, that he had found out a Companion for her of a very fair Fortune, a Widdower, *&c.* A Knight worth Eighteen Hundred Pounds *per Annum*; but indebted about Seven thousand pounds. The Gentlewoman much thanked him for his Care and Regard to her; and signified unto him, that she did not so much value the seven thousand pounds Debt, for she had Money enough, *&c.*

Being in this *Parlitorie*, in comes Sir *John*: The good Father desired him to be acquainted with that Vertuous Good Lady; so Sir *John* saluted her, and some Complements passing, the good Father acquainted Sir *John* that was the very Person he had commended to be his Wife, and did engage his Faith to them both, that neither could do better, and if they Married, they must needs be very happy in each other. The meeting being very gratefully embraced by both Parties, the Priest told them that he would presently contract them, and that they should take his word for their Future Happiness; but the Lady with a smiling Modesty declined that; but by the perswasion of her Ghostly Father she was prevailed with and so Contracted.

The Priest did very kindly entertain them with plenty of Wine, and some

other

other things of Pleasure; but the Wine having attached the Head-piece of the Priest, he began to tell them, that a Contract on Earth, was a Marriage in Heaven; and therefore he would forthwith Marry them, which accordingly was done.

The Remainder of the day being spent in great Jollity and Content to all Parties. The Priest acquainted them that the Matriage was not Consummated till they were Bedded; and he would cause a clean pair of Sheets to be laid on his Bed, and that there they should repose themselves that night, where many a good Body had reposed to his Knowledge, the which they did accordingly.

How pleasant their Repose was, is left for others Imaginations. The next Morning Sir *John* got up, and declared to his Lady what great Obligations the good Priest had laid upon him, and that he did purpose to cause him and some of his own Friends to Dine with him at his Lodging, to which the Lady readily condescended. Then Sir *John* made a very Sumptuous Feast, and his Friends did much rejoyce at his good Fortune, in having obtained so excellent and well accomplished a Wife, and returned many thanks to the Priest, for his Kindness to Sir *John* therein, being the only Person who procured the said Match.

This Day also being spent in much Delectation, *&c.* Sir *John* and his Lady went to Bed: The next morning he got up, and going out, his Landlord signified to him, how that there had been three or four Baliffs waiting there for some time, and wished Sir *John* to have a care who (considering he was much indebted) quickly apprehended that it might be for himself, and so did not then go out; but went up to his Lady, and acquainted her, how that she must needs do one thing for him. She told him, that she would serve him to the uttermost of her power. You must then (says he) let me have Six thousand pounds. Truly (says she) I would do it with all my heart, but I am not worth so many Shillings. Is it so (says Sir *John?*) The Priest told me you were worth Threescore thousand pounds. The Priest may tell you what he pleases; but if you had asked me, I would have dealt clearly with you, and have told you what my Fortune had been to a Farthing.

Is it so indeed, says Sir *John?* Well, be you but just and loving to me, and I will sell off so much of my Lands as shall pay off my Debts: And so quickly he did; and ever after they lived very comfortably and unanimously together.

But Sir *John* could never after endure the Priest, neither would the Lady ever after come under the Pennance of the Priest for her *Fraus honesta.*

Sir,

Many Edifying Collections may be hence gathered; but I will not presume to instruct *Minerva.*

The other Stories which much pleased me, are as Followeth.

Of One that went to a Meeting-House, Marrying a Papist, and the Strange Conversions of them both to the Church of England.

THere was an *Independent*, (a Rich Man and Popular) invited to Dine at a Merchants House here in Town, with some other Friends which came;

came; and amongſt ſeveral Perſons thither invited, was a Gentlewoman very handſome, and of a Conſiderable Fortune. The *Independent* was ſurprized with her Beauty and Graceful Behaviour, and thereupon began to make ſome Love unto her, and upon little Enquiry, found that ſhe was rich enough, but a *Papiſt.*

The *Independent* and the Gentlewoman came to ſome Treaty of Marriage; but that which gave ſome Stand to it, was, that ſhe would have her Liberty of Conſcience, and free Uſe of her Religion; to the which the *Independent* did at laſt agree; but upon this Condition, that ſhe ſhould go *Three times* with him to his *Congregation*, and if the Teacher could not work upon her, to make her forſake *Popery*, ſhe ſhould always enjoy the free Exerciſe of her own Religion.

Upon theſe Terms the Marriage took Effect.

And ſhe going the Firſt time with her Huſband to his Congregation, the Teacher did (as he was wont) ſeverely inveigh againſt the *Pope*, calling him *Antichriſt*, *Man of Sin*, *Whore of Babylon*, *Knave*, and many other unqualified Expreſſions; whereupon the Gentlewoman being a Profeſs'd *Romaniſt*, and hearing his *Holyneſs* ſo grievouſly debaſed, ſtood up, and was about to ſpeak, and give ſome Diſturbance to the Teacher, and Congregation; but her Huſband pulled her by the Gown, and deſired her of all Loves to forbear ſpeaking at that time: For if ſhe did, ſhe would ſhame her ſelf and him for ever. Whereupon ſhe ſate down, and for that time was quiet; but ſome ſhort time after, the *Pope* was more abuſed by the Teacher than before: whereupon the Gentlewoman ſtood up again, and was very forward to have utter'd her mind to the Teacher, but by the Prudence of her Huſband was then alſo over-perſwaded, and ſo became Quiet and Silent.

The Exerciſe ended, the *Independent* and his Wife being come Home, he thanked his Wife, that at his Requeſt ſhe did forbear ſpeaking, when ſhe heard the *Pope* ſo ill treated. I believe Huſband (ſays ſhe) you little think what I would have ſaid. No truly ſays he. I would have declared (ſays ſhe) to your whole Congregation, what a mighty Knave your Teacher was, who being a *Romiſh* Prieſt himſelf, ſhould ſo much abuſe his Holineſs the *Pope.*

That he is a *Romiſh* Prieſt I can manifeſt and aſſure you: For he hath been my Confeſſor theſe fourteen Years laſt paſt. The *Independent* being aſſured of the Truth of what his Wife ſaid, never after went to any Meeting-Houſe or Conventicle. And his Wife well knowing the Knavery of the Prieſt who was her Confeſſor, did forſake the *Romiſh* Religion, and both are now great Profeſſors of the Doctrine of the Church of *England.*

Difficile eſt verum ſcribere, difficilius Audire. Inquit Em. Theſ.

Sir,

From Your &c.

News From PRESTOR-JOHNS *Countrey.*

SIR,

A Perſon of ſeeming good Quality in this City in other Peoples Eyes, but his craſie Condition as to his Eſtate, being too well known to himſelf; bethought which way he might retrieve his loſt Fortune. Who, after Conſideration upon Conſideration, at length calls to mind, that he had often

ten heard, that a Show of Godlineſs had been proſperous to ſome, and why not ſo to him? What Teacher now to follow, ſticking in his mind, reſolves none ſurer and better than him, who ſo lately had converted the Play-houſe from a Tent of Wickedneſs, into a Place of Religious Worſhip, where ſurely he ſhould be taken notice of. In Order thereunto, ſets himſelf to write Sermons after this Precious Man, abſtains from Fleſhly Thoughts; *viz.* from Food after the Morning, till the After-noon Exerciſe was over. And in the Interim, to the intent he might the ſooner be taken notice of, ſets himſelf to repeat thoſe precious words dropt forth in the Morning, to thoſe few that had ſtayed with him (probably as devout as himſelf.) The Fame of this Proſelyte ſpread it ſelf, and like the Sap, topt up ſuddainly to the uppermoſt of the Tree, even the *Holder-forth* himſelf, who particularly ey'd him; beſides, having the Ecchoes of his Congregation, grew proud of ſuch a Follower; and ſo endeared he was unto this Babe of Grace, (nouriſhed by his Milk, as he thought) how to make him happy, and to increaſe his Flock is now his only Care. So makes Inquiſition into the Young Man's Eſtate, and finds him a Batchelor; very much rejoyces that now he had the opportunity of making a further Increaſe of this Holy Seed, as he meant (to wit, the advancement of his own Good, and gaining other Followers) bethinks to marry him him to ſome Holy Siſter of his Congregation. He finds but one; overpowers the Young man to marry her; who was much pleaſed to have a Huſband by ſuch a Teacher. This Lord of the Families of all his Congregation, preſcribes the Mother of the Daughter to promiſe Seven Hundred pounds Portion; but makes her keep (as good luck was) One Hundred Pounds in the Mothers Hands (as he pretended) for Charity, or as he ſhould think fit; and likewiſe makes the Young man promiſe him a Suit of the beſt Linnen the City could afford. The Marriage being performed, and the Young man having had his aim of going to a *Conventicle* (herein both the Teacher and Hearer agree in both one end, that it is for their own particular Intereſt) bethinks of his Hypocritical way he had gone, grows conſiderate, and by Inſinuation, and kind Perſwaſions prevails with his Wife to go but once with him to his Pariſh-Church, pretending the *Church-Wardens*, &c. would take notice of him, and puniſhment would acrue to him if ſhe did not. Which at laſt ſhe conſented to, and very attentively heard the Miniſter of the Pariſh, whoſe powerful Preaching made her (when ſhe came home) to tell her Huſband ſhe never heard a man *hold forth* better in her Life, and would needs go again in the Afternoon; where, by a ſecond Miniſter, ſhe came home as well ſatisfied as before. Upon which, her Huſband makes Uſe of this Opportunity, and readily ſhe is perſwaded from going any more to the Meeting-Houſe. The Teacher in the Play-houſe, miſſing his Devout Pretender and his Spouſe, from his Congregation, makes Enquiry of the Mother, who knew nothing of the matter, but feared Sickneſs; with heavy Heart, before the next Lords Day ſhe hies unto her Daughters Houſe. Now before the Mother came, he and his young Wife being in Bed together, he had diſcourſed with his Wife about the *Common-Prayer*. Oh fie! (ſaith the Young Saint) that is Superſtition and Popery; and if I had known you would at any time ſo much as looked into that Popiſh Book, I'll aſſure you, I would never have married you: however, ſporting one while, and reading part another while, he continued ſo; till at length, (ſays he) look you now, what Superſtition or Popery is in it? Truly (ſays ſhe) I find none; but my Mother and our Teacher told me ſo. The Mother finding them both in Bed together, Oh fie! Daughter, (ſays ſhe) why would not you come to hear that pretious Man Mr. *F.* The Daughter up and told her Mother, how that to ſave her Huſband from being informed againſt by the *Church-wardens &c.* ſhe went to the Pariſh-Church,

where,

where, Dear Mother, I was raviſhed to hear ſo good a Man, which I thought could never have been in a *Steeple-Houſe*; beſides, forſooth Mother, I'l tell you, You and the *Parſon* made me believe, that there was Popery and Superſtition in the *Common-prayer*; but, forſooth Mother, my Huſband read *Common-prayer* to me this morning in the Bed, and for my part, I find no Superſtition or Popery in it. O profane Wretch (ſays ſhe!) I have loſt my Daughter for ever. Dear Mother (ſays this new Convert) let me beg of you to go the next Lords Day with my Huſband to our Pariſh-Church, and you ſhall hear ſuch good Men, that you cannot think of. Hereupon the Mother was very froppiſh and untoward, checking her, thinking none could come near ſo good a man as the Teacher in a Separate Congregation. And away ſhe was going to her Godly Teacher to tell him what Match he had made; but through the Tears and Prayers of the Young Woman, was prevailed with to ſtay, fearing elſe her Daughter might miſcarry. And by the two firſt Sermons ſhe was ſo wonderfully Tranſported, to hear ſuch good things from a Church-man, that ſhe would go the next Lords day, and being as well ſatisfied as before, ſhe continued ſtill to go to Church with the ſame Satisfaction and Comfort. After which the Son-in-Law began to acquaint his Mother, that ſhe promiſed by the Teacher Seven Hundred Pounds, but he had but Six Hundred pounds. She ingeniouſly Confeſſeth the Truth, that ſo much was promiſed by her, but the Teacher over perſwaded her to keep One Hundred pounds in her hands for Charity, or to diſpoſe of it as he ſhould think fit. Yea Mother (ſaid the Son) ſo he made me promiſe him a Suit of the fineſt Linnen in *London*. Oh naughty Man (ſaid ſhe) that I ſhould think him to be ſo pretious a Man as I did! Oh! how am I miſtaken? And preſently gave the Son the Hundred pound, which the Teacher had thought to have had for himſelf. And ſo it fell out, that upon his miſſing the whole Family from his Meeting-houſe, comes to enquire the Cauſe, which was ſoon opened, That he was a baſe Fellow, and a Deceiver, *&c.* in deluding the People from the Church, *&c.* He being ſufficiently troubled to loſe ſuch Zealots, and Credit to him, he began in a rage to demand the hundred pound left for Charity in her Hands. The Mother replied, you would have cheated my Son of it, and I have given it him. Upon which, he charging her with cheating the Poor of what was promiſed to them, in a rage went his way; and ſhe made a Reſolution ever after, not to follow ſuch a deceitful Perſon to any Meeting-houſe; but to go to her Pariſh-Church; which ſhe ever after did. The Godly Teacher finding himſelf unmasked in this, went to demand his Suit of Linnen from the Son, and preſſes home the Promiſe made; from whom he received the like Rebukes as from the Mother. And farther tells him, You ſay I promiſed you a Suit of the beſt Linnen in *London*; if you expect to have it, you are like to ſtay till I can find it; and I have been endeavouring ever ſince, to find the beſt, but cannot yet find it. And ſo the Pretious Teacher went away in a great Fury, with a Flea in his Ear.

FINIS.

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